

Amendments to the Claims:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A method for management of a distributed data processing system, wherein the distributed data processing system is managed on behalf of a plurality of management customers, the method comprising:

representing the distributed data processing system as a set of scopes, wherein a scope of the set of scopes comprises a logical organization of network-related objects;

associating each scope of the set of scopes with a management customer of the plurality of management customers, wherein each scope is uniquely assigned to a given management customer of the plurality of management customers, ~~wherein each scope~~ and is uniquely associated with a set of configuration parameters for managing the each scope;

managing the distributed data processing system as a set of logical networks, wherein ~~[[a]] each logical network of the set of logical networks~~ comprises a ~~subset of the~~ set of scopes, ~~and wherein each logical network~~ and is uniquely assigned to a particular management customer of the plurality of management customers; and

allowing an administrative user to dynamically reconfigure the set of logical networks within the distributed data processing system to introduce a new scope by logically dividing a pre-existing scope of the set of scopes.

2. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 further comprising:

managing the each scope by a respective IP driver that has dedicated control over objects within its responsible scope such that other IP drivers do not have control over the objects

dynamically reconfiguring the distributed data processing system to introduce a new scope by logically dividing a pre-existing scope.

3. (Currently Amended) The method of claim ~~[[2]]~~ 1 wherein the new scope is introduced without physically introducing a new network, system, or endpoint to the distributed data processing system.

4. (Original) The method of claim 1 further comprising:
dynamically reconfiguring the distributed data processing system by logically moving a scope between management customers.
5. (Original) The method of claim 1 further comprising:
dynamically reconfiguring the distributed data processing system to introduce a new management customer.
6. (Original) The method of claim 5 wherein the new management customer is introduced without physically introducing a new network, system, or endpoint to the distributed data processing system.
7. (Original) The method of claim 1 further comprising:
dynamically discovering endpoints, systems, and networks within the distributed data processing system;
correspondingly representing endpoints, systems, and networks within the distributed data processing system as a set of endpoint objects, system objects, and network objects; and
logically organizing the endpoint objects, system objects, and network objects within a set of scopes, wherein each endpoint object, each system object, and each network object is uniquely assigned to a scope such that scopes do not logically overlap.
8. (Original) The method of claim 7 wherein dynamic discovery is limited to a scope assigned to a particular management customer.
9. (Original) The method of claim 1 further comprising:
determining whether to allow a reconfiguration operation requested by an administrative user in accordance with security authorization parameters associated with an administrative user.
10. (Original) The method of claim 9 further comprising:
limiting reconfiguration operations requested by an administrative user to scopes assigned to a particular management customer.

11. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for management of a distributed data processing system, wherein the distributed data processing system is managed on behalf of a plurality of management customers, the apparatus comprising a data processor coupled to a memory that includes instructions that are operable by the data processor for performing steps of:

~~means for~~ representing the distributed data processing system as a set of scopes, wherein a scope ~~of the set of scopes~~ comprises a logical organization of network-related objects;

~~means for~~ associating each scope ~~of the set of scopes~~ with a management customer ~~of the plurality of management customers~~, wherein each scope is uniquely assigned to a given management customer ~~of the plurality of management customers~~, ~~wherein each scope and~~ is uniquely associated with a set of configuration parameters for managing the each scope;

~~means for~~ managing the distributed data processing system as a set of logical networks, wherein ~~[[a]]~~ each logical network ~~of the set of logical networks~~ comprises a subset of the set of scopes; ~~and wherein each logical network and~~ is uniquely assigned to a particular management customer ~~of the plurality of management customers~~; and

~~means for~~ allowing an administrative user to dynamically reconfigure the set of logical networks within the distributed data processing system to introduce a new scope by logically dividing a pre-existing scope of the set of scopes.

12. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 11 wherein the instructions are further operable for performing a step of further comprising:

managing the each scope by a respective IP driver that has dedicated control over objects within its responsible scope such that other IP drivers do not have control over the objects

~~means for~~ dynamically reconfiguring the distributed data processing system to introduce a new scope by logically dividing a pre-existing scope.

13. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim ~~[[12]]~~ 11 wherein the new scope is introduced without physically introducing a new network, system, or endpoint to the distributed data processing system.

14. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 11 wherein the instructions are further operable for performing a step of further comprising:

~~means for~~ dynamically reconfiguring the distributed data processing system by logically moving a scope between management customers.

15. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 11 wherein the instructions are further operable for performing a step of further comprising:

~~means for~~ dynamically reconfiguring the distributed data processing system to introduce a new management customer.

16. (Original) The apparatus of claim 15 wherein the new management customer is introduced without physically introducing a new network, system, or endpoint to the distributed data processing system.

17. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 11 wherein the instructions are further operable for performing steps of further comprising:

~~means for~~ dynamically discovering endpoints, systems, and networks within the distributed data processing system;

~~means for~~ correspondingly representing endpoints, systems, and networks within the distributed data processing system as a set of endpoint objects, system objects, and network objects; and

~~means for~~ logically organizing the endpoint objects, system objects, and network objects within a set of scopes, wherein each endpoint object, each system object, and each network object is uniquely assigned to a scope such that scopes do not logically overlap.

18. (Original) The apparatus of claim 17 wherein dynamic discovery is limited to a scope assigned to a particular management customer.

19. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 11 wherein the instructions are further operable for performing a step of further comprising:

~~means for~~ determining whether to allow a reconfiguration operation requested by an administrative user in accordance with security authorization parameters associated with an administrative user.

20. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 19 wherein the instructions are further operable for performing a step of further comprising:

~~means for~~ limiting reconfiguration operations requested by an administrative user to scopes assigned to a particular management customer.

21. (Currently Amended) A computer program product stored on a computer readable storage medium for use in managing a distributed data processing system, wherein the distributed data processing system is managed on behalf of a plurality of management customers, the computer program product comprising:

instructions for representing the distributed data processing system as a set of scopes, wherein a scope of the set of scopes comprises a logical organization of network-related objects;

instructions for associating each scope of the set of scopes with a management customer of the plurality of management customers, wherein each scope is uniquely assigned to a given management customer of the plurality of management customers, ~~wherein each scope and is~~ uniquely associated with a set of configuration parameters for managing the each scope;

instructions for managing the distributed data processing system as a set of logical networks, wherein [[a]] each logical network of the set of logical networks comprises a subset of the set of scopes, ~~and wherein each logical network and~~ is uniquely assigned to a particular management customer of the plurality of management customers; and

instructions for allowing an administrative user to dynamically reconfigure the set of logical networks within the distributed data processing system to introduce a new scope by logically dividing a pre-existing scope of the set of scopes.

22. (Currently Amended) The computer program product of claim 21 further comprising:
instructions for managing the each scope by a respective IP driver that has dedicated control over objects within its responsible scope such that other IP drivers do not have control over the objects dynamically reconfiguring the distributed data processing system to introduce a new scope by logically dividing a pre-existing scope.
23. (Currently Amended) The computer program product of claim [[22]] 21 wherein the new scope is introduced without physically introducing a new network, system, or endpoint to the distributed data processing system.
24. (Original) The computer program product of claim 21 further comprising:
instructions for dynamically reconfiguring the distributed data processing system by logically moving a scope between management customers.
25. (Original) The computer program product of claim 21 further comprising:
instructions for dynamically reconfiguring the distributed data processing system to introduce a new management customer.
26. (Original) The computer program product of claim 25 wherein the new management customer is introduced without physically introducing a new network, system, or endpoint to the distributed data processing system.
27. (Original) The computer program product of claim 21 further comprising:
instructions for dynamically discovering endpoints, systems, and networks within the distributed data processing system;
instructions for correspondingly representing endpoints, systems, and networks within the distributed data processing system as a set of endpoint objects, system objects, and network objects; and
instructions for logically organizing the endpoint objects, system objects, and network objects within a set of scopes, wherein each endpoint object, each system object, and each network object is uniquely assigned to a scope such that scopes do not logically overlap.

28. (Original) The computer program product of claim 27 wherein dynamic discovery is limited to a scope assigned to a particular management customer.
29. (Original) The computer program product of claim 21 further comprising:
instructions for determining whether to allow a reconfiguration operation requested by an administrative user in accordance with security authorization parameters associated with an administrative user.
30. (Original) The computer program product of claim 29 further comprising:
instructions for limiting reconfiguration operations requested by an administrative user to scopes assigned to a particular management customer.